

"Every victim of injustice and cruelty" (speaking of the *French government*) "*bequeaths his revenge to his connections, to his friends, and to his relations: or (if all these should be involved in the same common fate with himself) every such execution raises detestation and abhorrence, even in the breast of ordinary spectators, and unites the public opinion against a Government, which exists only by the daily practice of robbery and murder. From this disgusting scene, let us turn our eyes to our own situation. THERE the contrast is striking in all its parts. HERE we see nothing of the character and genius of arbitrary finance; none of the bold frauds of bankrupt power; none of the wild struggles and plunges of despotism in distress; no lopping off from the capital of debt; no suspension of interest; no robbery under the name of loan; no raising the value; no debasing the substance of the coin. HERE we behold public credit of every description rising under all the disadvantages of a general war; an ample revenue, flowing freely and copiously from the opulence of a contented people.*"—LORD MORNINGTON (now Marquis Wellesley). SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, 21st January, 1794.

"The interest of the national funded debt is paid at the Bank in the same kind of paper in which the taxes are collected. When people find, as they will find, a reservedness among each other in giving gold and silver for bank notes, or the least preference for the former over the latter, they will go for payment to the Bank, where they have a right to go. They will do this as a measure of prudence, each one for himself, and the truth, or delusion, of the funding system will be then proved."—PAINE. DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ENGLISH SYSTEM OF FINANCE. Published in 1796.

"The great object, however, is to open the Bank of England and to enable it to carry on its pecuniary transactions to the extent which its resources will admit of, on the solid principle of giving either cash or paper at the option of the applicant. Until that is done, neither public or private credit, nor agriculture, nor commerce, nor manufactories, nor the income of the nation, can go on prosperously."—SIR JOHN SINCLAIR. LETTER, published in 1797.

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## PAPER AGAINST GOLD:

BEING AN EXAMINATION

OF THE

*Report of the Bullion Committee:*

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS

TO THE

TRADESMEN AND FARMERS

IN AND NEAR SALISBURY.

## LETTER XII.

*The impression made upon the country by the Stoppage of Gold and Silver payments at the Bank—Ridiculous situation of the ministers in complaining of False Alarms—The Jacobins now accused of exciting the False Alarm—Jacobins accused of causing the run upon the Bank—Foolishness of this accusation—Mr. Wilberforce answered by Mr. Fox—Now was the time for Mr. Pitt's adherents to leave him—They had been warned by Mr. Fox and others—King's Speech and language of the Minister at the opening of the Session during which the Stoppage took place—If the Minister's adherents had now quitted him it might have prevented the present dangers—Mr. Pitt's humiliation in the House of Commons—Questions put to him upon the subject of the Legal Tender, by Mr. Combe and Mr. Nicholls—His inability to determine on what measures he should propose.*

Gentlemen,

Having, agreeably to the intention expressed, traced the increase of the Debt and of the bank-notes down to that grand and memorable effect, the *stoppage of Gold and Silver payments at the Bank of England*, our next object must naturally be to know what impression that event produced upon the nation, and what measures were adopted in consequence of it; in other words, to continue the history of the *stoppage* down to the time, when the evil of paper-money produced the forming of the Bullion Committee.

The impression made upon the nation in general was such as might have been expected, after all the *flattering accounts* which had been given of the national resources. The ORDER OF COUNCIL does, you will perceive, ascribe the event to "*ill-founded and exaggerated alarms, in different parts of the country.*" But, supposing this to have been the chief, and only cause, with what face could the ministers complain of these alarms; seeing that they themselves had done their utmost to excite them? They had not only proposed and carried through the Arming Bills, but they had been writing to the magistrates, in every part of the kingdom, calling upon them for internal preparations, "*while*" (Morning Chronicle, 22nd February 1797) "*Contractors had put*

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"every town into commotion by inquiries as to the number of *Ovens*, the quantity of *grain*, and the *state of the Provisions*." Nay, the preamble of the Arming Acts itself proclaimed, that the measures were become necessary, "in order to prevent, or repel, any attempt, which the enemies of the country might make to effect a descent upon the kingdom." After all this it was, that the Privy Council spoke, in a sort of complaining tone, of "ill-founded and exaggerated alarms"!

When the matter came before parliament, the Opposition did, certainly, not spare the Minister and his adherents, who had the confidence to hold the same tone as to the alarm, and whose opinion of the minds of the people was such, that they scrupled not to repeat the assertions of the venal prints, and to ascribe the injury (for they then acknowledged it to be an injury) which Public Credit had sustained to unfounded alarms, excited by the internal enemies of the country, which, in a contrary sense, some members were malicious enough to believe. GENERAL WALPOLE (in the Debate of 1st March) made an admirable exposure of them in this way, to which no answer was given, but that they were not *always* to feel alarm, because they had *once* felt it; though the fact was, that they were proclaiming alarm, with all their might, 'till the Bank, as it afterwards appeared, represented to them secretly, that the alarm, if continued, would take away all their cash. MR. SHERIDAN, in adverting to the speech of GENERAL WALPOLE, who had remarked upon MR. WINDHAM'S not having signed the Order of Council, said, "that he believed it proceeded from the reflections it contained against the alarms," and he added, that "even amidst the wreck of public credit, it was impossible not to laugh at the juggling tricks and miserable shifts to which the ministers had recourse."

The venal part of the press, now that it was impossible any longer to disguise the state of the credit of the Bank, began a regular new attack upon the Jacobins, whom it had before reviled for endeavouring to check the alarm, and whom it now accused of causing the alarm. The notoriously venal prints before-mentioned (TRUE BRITON and SUN), which had, to the last moment, abused the Jacobins for (as they said) propagating the false notion of the Bank's not having gold to answer

their notes. These prints, never equalled in venality, I believe, by any prints in the world, the MORNING POST only excepted, now abused those same unfortunate Jacobins for not acknowledging the necessity of the Order in Council. They (3rd March, 1797) again accused the Jacobins of having caused "a distrust of the Bank," and of having formed a design to ruin the credit of the country, in which "they had so far succeeded, at least, as to persuade the people, in some parts of the country, that gold was preferable to Bank notes."

Gentlemen, pause here, for a moment, and contemplate the foolishness as well as the injustice of such observations as these. You will bear in mind, that the Jacobins, as they were called, were, by these same writers, constantly represented as men without learning, without sense, without property, and, of course, without influence. How, then, were they to have the power of producing such an effect upon the minds of the nation; and, upon the minds of those, too, who held the bank-notes and who owned the Stock? The Jacobins, as these venal prints had the impudence to call them, had not been able to persuade the people to check MR. PITT in his ruinous career of war and expenditure; they had not been able to prevent any one of the measures of that Minister; they had not been able to persuade the people to do any one thing that they wished them to do, and, at the very time we are speaking of, they were out-voted in the parliament, four to one. Yet, to these same Jacobins was now ascribed that run upon the Bank, which produced the Order in Council; which produced an order, issued by the king's Privy Council, to encourage a Company of Merchants to refuse, illegally, to pay their promissory notes, when duly presented. The Jacobins, as they were still called, with a degree of impudence not to be adequately described; the Jacobins, who were represented as defeated and put down, and as being held in abhorrence by the people, were, nevertheless, at the same moment, represented as having such power over the mind of that same people, as to cause them to make a run upon the bank, which was called "stabbing the country in its vitals." MR. FOX, in answer to MR. WILBERFORCE, who (March 1, 1797) attributed "much of the public calamity to the conduct of the Opposition, and to the conduct of those who had proceeded to lengths which the Oppo-





"sition would not *avow*;" in answer to this Mr. Fox said: "this reminds me of a scene in Ben Jonson, where it appears, that an Impostor had played his tricks very successfully for a long time upon his dupes, and, when he was detected, the dupes became very angry, not at the Impostor, but at those who had detected him."

Now was the time for those, who had been deluded into a support of Mr. PITT's measures, to make a frank and manly acknowledgment of their error, and to join Mr. Fox in demanding a change of system. They had, when war was first contemplated, received the most solemn assurances, that the *resources* for *vigorous preparation* (at first preparation only was talked of) were *ample*, even from the *excess* of the revenue\*; they had been, when, after the war had begun and had brought, at once, very disastrous effects as to pecuniary matters, told that those effects were *completely removed*, and that the revenue was in a *favourable state*; † they had been told, that the war could not be of long duration; they had been told, that the situation of France, in every respect, and especially in respect to her finances, was desperate beyond description; the French system had been repeatedly described to them as one that could not last above a few months, having in itself the seeds of inevitable destruction; they had been assured, that all the powers of Europe would join us against France; they had been told, that, if there were no other cause of ruin to our enemy, that enemy must be ruined by the loss of all his colonies (which we had taken), and

\* "Gentlemen of the House of Commons. It is a great consolation to me to reflect, that *you will find ample resources* for effectually defraying the expence of *vigorous preparations*, from the excess of the *actual revenue beyond the ordinary expenditure.*" — KING'S SPEECH, 13th Dec. 1792.

† "I feel too sensibly the repeated proofs which I have received of the affection of my subjects not to lament the necessity of any additional burthens. It is, however, a great consolation to me, to observe the favourable state of the Revenue, and the complete success of the measure which was last year adopted for removing the embarrassments affecting commercial credit." — KING'S SPEECH, 10th January 1794.

by the annihilation of his naval force, which seemed to have been nearly completed by the fourth year of the war; they had had, year after year, exhibited to them such pictures of the finances of France compared with those of England, as to make them believe that France must speedily become *bankrupt*, while England was (and partly in consequence of the war) becoming, every day, more and more rich, that her commerce was daily increasing, and that her *credit*, which was always firmly established, was now *built upon a rock*; they had, even in the King's Speech, made at the beginning of the session of which we are now speaking, and during which the stoppage took place, at the beginning of that very session they had been told, in the King's Speech, of the *SOLIDITY* of the pecuniary resources of the country\*, while the Minister and his adherents echoed back the assertion. Upon this last occasion, which, Gentlemen, is worthy of particular attention, the time being only *four months* before the Bank stoppage actually took place; upon this occasion, SIR WILLIAM LOWTHER, who seconded the address, and who is now a Lord, I believe, said: "if we regarded our *finances*, they were *ABUNDANT* in the *EXTREME*, and such as were adequate to any emergency of the country." LORD MORPETH, son of the earl of Carlisle, who moved the address to the king in answer to his speech, said: "As to our *internal situation*, we have witnessed it, for some time past, with *joy and exultation*, and have reason to congratulate his Majesty and the people at large, upon our *auspicious prospects* in that respect." And Mr. PITT himself said, "As to our *resources*, they furnish, indeed, in a moment like the present, a subject of *peculiar congratulation and well grounded confidence*. ..... Our resources remain as yet, *untouched*, and we shall be able to bring them into action with a degree of concert and effect, worthy of the character of the British

\* "It is a great satisfaction to me to observe, that, notwithstanding the temporary embarrassments, which have been experienced, the state of the commerce, manufactures, and revenue of the country proves the real extent and *SOLIDITY* of our resources, and furnish you such means as must be equal to any exertions which the present crisis may require."

—KING'S SPEECH, 6th October, 1796.



"nation, and of the cause in which they  
"will be employed. These resources  
"have in them, NOTHING HOLLOW  
"OR DELUSIVE. They are the result  
"of an accumulated capital, of gradually  
"increasing commerce, of HIGH AND  
"ESTABLISHED CREDIT; and they  
"have been produced while we have been  
"contending against a country, which  
"exhibits, in every respect, *the reverse of*  
"*this picture* \*."

Such, Gentlemen, was the language of the Minister and his adherents at the beginning of that session, during which took place the memorable event, recorded in the foregoing Letter; and before you proceed any further, I beg you to look well at it. I beseech you to consider it well. If you do so, you never will be deluded again by any high-sounding assertions, let them come from what quarter they will. These, which I have just quoted, are memorable words. They are precious matter for history. They go a great way in enabling any one to judge of the character of Mr. PITT, as a statesman, and especially as a political economist. Gentlemen, there is no such thing as answering me here. No one can contradict me. What I have laid before you is indubitably true; and, as such, I am sure, it will have weight upon your minds, whatever your prejudices heretofore may have been.

The adherents of Mr. PITT had been told all that we have now taken a hasty review of; and, though they ought never to have believed it, having constantly been warned against the delusion by Mr. FOX, Mr. SHERIDAN, Mr. NICHOLLS, Mr. HOBHOUSE, Mr. GREY, Mr. TIERNEY, and others, but especially by the three former; though they ought not to have believed, and would not, had it not been for the blinding influence of the fears excited in their minds, have believed in those delusive assertions and predictions; still, if they did believe in them, they were not (if they looked upon the principle of the war as being just and wise) to be blamed for supporting the minister; but, when experience had undeceived them; when they saw the proof of their error; when clearly established facts told them that they were in the wrong course; when they had before their eyes, that which could not possibly

\* See Parliamentary Debates, 6th Oct. 1796.

leave a doubt in any man's mind, that the system which they had so long supported was ruinous to their country; when they saw the Bank of England stop payment of its notes, and take shelter under an Order of the Privy Council, immediately followed by an *Act of Indemnification*, that is to say, an act to shelter the parties concerned from the penalties of the law; when the adherents of Mr. PITT saw this; when they beheld these effects, this mighty ruin, which that adherence had brought upon their country; when they beheld this, they ought to have withdrawn their support; and, if they had done this, though I am very far from saying, that they could have restored Gold and Silver payments at the Bank, and am still less inclined to say, that they would have put a stop to the workings of the French revolution, I am decidedly of opinion, that there was yet time to give such a turn to that revolution as to render it less violent in itself, less severe towards Europe in general, and infinitely less dangerous to this country, as we, in all likelihood, never should have seen an Emperor in France, and, of course, should not have had to dread, and to guard against, the effects of his ambition and his power. It must, I think, be now clear to all the world, that to Mr. PITT, supported by the great mercantile and monied bodies, BUONAPARTE owes his rise and his greatness; and, that, instead of being, as Mr. PITT once called him, "the child and the champion of Jacobinism," he may be truly called the child of Mr. PITT and the paper-system, that system, the effects of which we shall, every day, feel more and more; that system, of the evils of which almost every man seems now to be thoroughly convinced; that system, of which to prevent, or, at least, retard, the still greater evils, the Bullion Committee have proposed that remedy, into which we shall, by-and-by, have to examine.

Mr. PITT, who was, in the House of Commons, *boldness* personified; who never seemed to feel as men in general do upon being defeated in argument, or at being detected and exposed as to points of fact; who always appeared to increase in boldness in proportion as he was worsted in the contest, does, however, seem to have, for a while, at least, felt himself humbled upon this occasion, and to have been, as the vulgar saying is, completely *chop-fallen*; and, after what we have seen him (in the above-quoted passages) assert, only four



months before, well might he feel humbled; well might he feel afraid to open his mouth in the presence of those, who had so often told him that such would be the result of his system, and whom he had, as often, reproached with the want of love for their country, and even at whose opinions not only himself but his underlings had been accustomed to laugh. To come to the House of Commons, that scene of his long-enjoyed triumph; to come to that bench, whence he had so long been in the habit of dictating to all around him, and of dealing out his sarcasms upon all who dared question his infallibility; to come to the same bench, and thence to deliver a message from the king, (27th February, 1797) announcing the Stoppage of Gold and Silver payments at the Bank of England; to do this, and to look Mr. Fox in the face, seemed to be too much even for Mr. PITT; to come down to the House, and say, that necessity had compelled him to issue an order of the King's Council to forbid, or to protect, the Bank of England from paying the just demands of its creditors, was more than he was able to do without faulting, and it is, perhaps, more than any other man upon earth, under similar circumstances, would have been able to do at all.

His confidence seems, for once, to have failed him; and, what is upon record as to the debate, clearly proves, that he did not know what to do; that he literally was at his wit's end. Having delivered the Message, and laid a copy of the Order of Council upon the table, he moved for the Message to be taken into consideration the next day, and, at the same time, gave notice of a motion for appointing a committee to inquire into the concerns of the Bank, an inquiry, he said, which "would greatly tend to confirm the solidity of the Bank capital." He also said, that he meant to declare by law, that "notes instead of cash would be taken by the public in payment of the sums due to them by the Bank." MR. ALDERMAN COMBE asked him, whether he meant that bank notes were to be taken only "by the receivers of the revenue, or, that they were to become a legal tender in all money transactions." He answered, that, "in the first instance, he meant only to propose, that they should be taken on the part of the public," leaving future measures to be decided upon, after the committee should have made their report. MR. COMBE asked him "whether it was

"his opinion, that this measure would be resorted to in the end." He answered, that "he had no opinion upon the subject." Mr. Fox asked him, "if he disclaimed the opinion." He replied, that "he said nothing about it at all."

Look at him, Gentlemen! See there the man, who had the management of the affairs of this country for twenty years, and during whose administration more persons were, I believe, promoted to the peerage, than during any century before. Look at him. See him, who, only four months before, had boasted that our "resources were untouched," and that there was "nothing hollow or delusive in our finances." Look at him now, not able to say; nay, not able to give an opinion, whether he shall propose Bank notes to be made a legal tender, or not! Mr. NICHOLLS (of whose great understanding upon this subject we shall see many proofs by-and-bye) "pressed him for an answer to the question which had been put to him, whether it was his intention that the notes of the Bank of England should be declared a legal tender from the Bank to the public creditor? If so, he was about to proclaim an act of insolvency. And, considering it in this light, he reproached his silence, as an instance of most atrocious arrogance. After animadverting, in the severest terms, on the confiding majorities in that House, who supported the Minister in every measure, however wild, and sanctioned every part of his conduct, however insolent, he concluded with repeating the question, whether or not bank notes were to be declared a legal tender to the public creditor." After the treatment, which this gentleman had frequently received at the hands of Mr. PITT and his adherents, it could surprise no body to see him give way, upon this occasion, to a degree of asperity, which, without taking these circumstances into view, might not have been fully justified by the conduct of Mr. PITT upon this particular occasion, who, in answer to Mr. NICHOLLS, said, that he was "perplexed by the observations and questions of the learned gentleman, who to an intricacy which it was impossible to unravel, added an exertion of voice much beyond what he was accustomed to, and an asperity of language which even exceeded that of the other honorable gentleman (Mr. SHERIDAN). He hoped that he would not persist in think-



"ing it atrocious arrogance in him, if he  
 "did not attempt to answer what he con-  
 "ceived it would be unpardonable arro-  
 "gance in him *to attempt to understand.*  
 "When a man obtruded his opinion,  
 "with too much rashness or too much  
 "positiveness, then he might be accused  
 "of arrogance; but he did not perceive  
 "that the man who *altogether declined giv-*  
 "*ing an opinion,* could incur the imputa-  
 "tion. But the learned gentleman seem-  
 "ed to be as ignorant of the forms of the  
 "House as of the common mode of busi-  
 "ness. He might have known that  
 "though it would be sometimes conve-  
 "nient to ask and to communicate in-  
 "formation by question and answer, that  
 "no discussion can regularly take place,  
 "except *when a motion was before the*  
 "*House.*"

This was a very poor evasion; but, in fact, he could give no answer to the question, unless he had been ready to make a full and fair acknowledgment of his *not knowing what to do.* Nothing could be plainer than the question; nothing more distinct; nothing more intelligible to any man, who understood the common meaning of the frightful words, **LEGAL TENDER.** But, how was an answer to be given? Even if the minister had made his mind up to go that length. Even if he had screwed his courage up to the contemplation of such a measure, how was he to find face to propose it *all at once?* To propose such a measure required time, even with such a man as Mr. PITT. It, at any rate, required time for him to look round him in the House. It required time for him to discover how his adherents felt, and whether they were still to be depended upon. It also required time to break the matter to the public, and to afford an opportunity for the press, and for the minister's monied friends out of doors to exert their influence. It not only required time to see what *could* be done, but what *dared* to be attempted.

To obtain this time the scheme of a Committee of Inquiry was resorted to, the result of which inquiry and an account of the measures adopted we shall see in the next Letter. In the meanwhile, I am,

Gentlemen,

Your faithful friend,

WM. COBBETT.

State Prison, Newgate, Thursday,  
 October 12, 1810.

## SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

"A few days ago, *five men* belonging to the  
 "KING'S GERMAN LEGION, stationed at  
 "Bexhill, took a boat from the beach, in which  
 "they proceeded to sea, and have not since  
 "been heard of: it is supposed their intention  
 "was *to gain the enemy's coast.*"—TIMES news-  
 paper, 16 Oct. 1810.

KING'S GERMAN LEGION.—Look at the motto, English reader! Look at the motto! And, when you have looked well at it, recollect, that these men are stationed upon the coast of Kent, just opposite the enemy's coast.—These *five men*, if this account be true, have had better luck than the *two gentlemen* of the same LEGION, who, the other day, were, as it was stated, going off over to the enemy, and who were caught, and brought back by a *single boatman* of Dover. Those two heroes had bad luck; but the *five* now before us, seem to have managed their affairs better.—The venal prints should, I think, be a little cautious how they draw conclusions against the French service from the circumstance of the *German* soldiers deserting from it; for, this is a mode of arguing that may prove very injurious to the reputation of *our service.*—The desertions of the Germans from Massena's army, under circumstances, where to desert must have been little more than taking a long walk, has been held forth as a proof of the disaffection of the enemy's army, and, at one time, nothing short of the total ruin of it was anticipated from that cause. What, then, must we naturally expect, that the French will say, when they hear of the Germans deserting from our army, with the desperate risk of being drowned in the undertaking?—It must, I should suppose, be about twenty to one, that a boat, taken off in the manner described in the motto, would never reach the coast of France. This the Royal German Legion men must know: and, I leave the reader to guess, then, at their *eagerness to get off.* That eagerness must be almost incredible, which I suspected, indeed, when I mentioned the attempt of the *two men.* I said, that, if two men of a corps had made so desperate an attempt to get away, it was reasonable to suppose, that there must be a very strong desire indeed to go over to the enemy, in those men, at least; and that it was very surprizing if that desire should confine itself to their breasts.—I have dwelt enough upon the subject before, perhaps; but, as often as facts of this sort reach me,



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I cannot forbear reminding my readers, that we never till now heard of soldiers deserting in this Island, with a view of going over to the enemy. These men, as well as our own native soldiers, have taken the oath of allegiance and fidelity; and, whatever may be the question of real allegiance, they are, towards this country, guilty of treason in attempting to go over to the enemy; or, if their crime be not treason; if they cannot be punished as traitors for this crime, it would be curious to ascertain what footing they are upon with us. In what sort of relationship they stand towards us? —At the same time that these things are going on, we are informed, by the Morning Post of Wednesday last, that “a number of deserters from the French army are going to join the German Legion at BEXHILL.” —This is very good indeed. Gone to the very spot, whence the German Legion soldiers (or seven of them, at least) have deserted, or attempted to desert, and to go over to the enemy at the manifest risk of their lives! —There will be opportunities enough for my resuming this subject; I shall, therefore, only add, at present, that the MORNING POST and COURIER have not taken the smallest notice of the desertion of the *five* King’s German Legion men; and yet, as the reader may have seen, the writers of these papers have the face to boast of enjoying THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS, and that this liberty is a great blessing to the people of England. Indeed, this is one of the things, for the preservation of which they are continually calling upon us to spend our last shilling and to shed the last drop of our blood. This is one of the things, for the preservation of which they tell us, that we ought to think nothing of any sacrifice that may be demanded of us. This is one of the things, for the possession of which they tell us we ought to keep a Jubilee, and “to return humble and hearty thanks to the Almighty giver of good.” This is one of the things, for the enjoyment of which these pious, sincere and free gentlemen would have us prostrate ourselves in the dirt and adore the system of sway, under which we live. —All this is, however, on the part of these writers, quite natural. It belongs to the state of things in which we now are. It is not to be put a stop to by any effort that can be made by any man or body of men. It will last, probably, for some few years, till events put an end to it; and, in the mean while, men of sense, while they see it going on, and while they

remark upon it, will rather smile, than be angry, at it, being quite sure as to what the final consequence will be, and that that consequence will come as soon as any reasonable man can desire it to come.

JEFFERY. —The TIMES news-paper of this day, contains the following letter. It is signed JOHN EVANS, and dated at Islington, 17th Oct. 1810. —“As every humane individual must be interested in the fate of poor Jeffery, the Seaman, I transmit you an extract from a letter shewn me by a friend this morning, which is dated Marblehead, United States, March 8, 1808. It was written by a Mr. Strawbridge, who had emigrated thither, and is a person of the strictest veracity: it is addressed to a relative here in England; and speaking of the great kindness of the Americans to strangers, he specifies the following instance, which must relate to Jeffery, the Seaman, though no name be mentioned. —A boy about sixteen was picked off an uninhabited island by a Marblehead vessel the week before last—had been put on shore there by a Captain of a man of war from Plymouth, for tapping a cask of liquor—had been nine days without food, was nearly dead, and no clothes! The Marblehead people collected money for a new suit of clothes. He is now quite well—has got work at nine shillings sterling a week, board, washing, lodging, and mending. In short, I never thought there were such kind-hearted people in this world. —This Extract, though short, may be deemed satisfactory as far as it goes, though there is probably a mistake respecting his age. The affidavit stated to be that of Jeffery, which lately appeared in your valuable paper, seemed to have set the public mind at rest; but a subsequent letter, said to be his mother’s, has thrown it back again into a state of doubt. Your insertion, therefore, of this present communication, will no doubt be gratifying to every humane mind.” —Yes, it would be very gratifying to every one, if the thing were true; but, the whole of this account cannot be true. The letter of Mr. STRAWBRIDGE was, it is said, dated on the 8th of March, 1808, and it says, that the boy was “picked off an uninhabited island, by a Marblehead vessel, the week before last,” which must have been in the last week of February, in that year; whereas, Jeffery, as will be



seen from the evidence upon the trial (Register, Vol. XVII, page 401), was landed and left on Sombrero, on the 13th of December, 1807. Consequently, as he is said, by the declaration (see page 561) to have been 9 days upon the island, he must have been "picked off" on the 22nd of December, and not at the end of the month of February. This account, therefore, cannot be true in all its parts.—Besides, if Mr. EVANS's friend possessed this letter upwards of two years ago, and had it in his possession ever since, how comes he to have kept it to himself all this while? There has been talk enough about the matter to have induced a "humane" man to make this letter public before now, or, at least, to have communicated its contents to the mother of Jeffery. The matter was first brought before parliament in February last; the Address to the King was moved and carried in April; and, when Mr. EVANS's friend saw, that the House of Commons had moved the king to send out in search of the unfortunate man, how comes it that this friend of Mr. Evans did not come forth with his letter?—These circumstances, besides the certainty of *one untruth*, make against the credibility of this new account, which, indeed, will weigh nothing at all; because, if it be true, there is in existence, *indubitable evidence* of that truth, and, *why not*, then, *bring us that evidence*.—In short, nothing but JEFFERY himself, coming in person to England, and the identity of that person certified upon the oaths of the mother and the most respectable of her neighbours. Nothing short of this will now do, in my opinion; and, I believe, the same opinion is entertained by almost every man, who has an opinion upon the subject.—To-day has also brought forth a letter upon the subject, in the MORNING CHRONICLE, which is curious, in many respects. It is as follows:—"LOOE, OCTOBER 12, 1810. "Having seen the Star of Monday last, "in which was a letter of the mother of "Jeffery, the seaman, to be sure of the "fact, I yesterday went to her (she lives "about two miles from my farm;) she "told me that the letter was from her, "and she shewed me several letters to "her, one from Sir J—S—, a curious one, two from Mr. W. and one "from Mr. J—W—C—, but the "woman will not believe he is alive. "The trick of personating her son is "proved by his being able to write, and "to keep on a slate a daily account of

"jobs done in the smith's shop. I also "called on the Schoolmaster, Edward Riddle, of Polperro, and he will, he said, make "oath any time of Jeffery being able to write "a good hand. He was always a dutiful "lad, and when the boat put off at the "fatal spot (Sombrero) he begged the "men, who belonged to Polperro, "not "to tell his mother what had happened to "him, and she reasons justly, by saying, "if he was alive he would have written to "her."—Now, I have seen a copy of this same letter; but my copy fills up the blanks of the names, and does not stop quite so soon as that of the Morning Chronicle. Mine goes on to say: "I hope SIR FRANCIS BURDETT will sift the matter yet "more, and I shall be glad that MR. COBBETT should know, that what is published from the STAR is truly from JEFFERY's mother. How much I wish these "advocates of truth to prevail against the "ruinous system, which threatens the "destruction of the country."—The Morning Chronicle thought, I suppose, that this latter part of the letter did not belong to the subject.—The letter is, however, authentic; that the reader may rely on; and what is said of the Schoolmaster's evidence tends most strongly to confirm MRS. COADE's conjectures as to the trick of personating her son.—Against testimony like this, what is the weight of a letter, seen in the possession of a Mr. John Evans's friend, which letter bears a date of two years and a half ago, has not been made public till now, and contains one *known untruth*.—Again, I say, that nothing can now satisfy any man of sense, that JEFFERY is alive, unless he be produced at Polperro, and the identity of his person certified by his mother and her neighbours.—If I am asked, whether, if the authenticity of Mr. Evans's friend's letter be proved; whether, if it be proved, that Mr. STRAWBRIDGE did write such a letter; if I am asked, whether, in this case, I shall believe, that JEFFERY was landed at Marblehead, I answer, *certainly not the sooner for such proof*; for, why should not such a story, though false, be propagated at Marblehead, and in the neighbourhood? Nay, *why should not a fellow be got to personate JEFFERY then?*—The reader will bear in mind, that after JEFFERY (See account of the trial of LAKE, Vol. XVII. page 396 and onwards) was put upon the Island, LAKE sailed for Barbadoes, whence, upon hearing the story, SIR ALEXANDER COCHRANE sent him back



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in search of the man. It appears, from the evidence, that he got back to the Island on the 11th of February, 1808, and found no traces of the man. Now, mark, it was after they returned to Barbadoes this second time, that SIR ALEXANDER COCHRANE says (Vol. XVII. page 463) he heard of the circumstance being reported in an American news-paper, and of the man's arrival there, which assured him of the man's safety, and induced him to let the business rest, leaving, of course, LAKE in the command of his ship and men.—Where, then, is the difficulty of supposing, that a fellow really did personate JEFFERY at Marblehead; that, as such he was presented to the people; that, as such, money and clothes were collected for him; and that, as such, MR. STRAWBRIDGE heard of him, and gave an account of him to his friend, agreeably to MR. EVANS'S letter.—I have had files of American news-papers, for many years back; and I have never seen in them an account of JEFFERY'S deliverance. I have correspondents in America, who tell me, that they have never seen any such thing. If such a publication had been made, why has it not, long ago, been produced? Will any man believe, that, if it was to be found in any news-paper in America, LAKE would not have had it before now? An Advertisement, offering a dollar reward, would have got him fifty copies of the paper by this time. But, why need he go to America for this news-paper? There are files of the American news-papers kept at the NEW-ENGLAND COFFEE-HOUSE, or some other of the places, in London, where the Americans resort. Marblehead is near Boston. The paragraph would naturally appear in the Boston news-papers. Why not go and search a file of them? Why not go and get us this long-talked-of paragraph?—I must, however, confess, that the producing of an American paper, with the paragraph in it, would not go far towards making me believe JEFFERY to be alive. When I published a daily paper at Philadelphia, I was acquainted with a worthy old Quaker, named ROBERT VAREE, whose only failing was that of an insatiable curiosity, which led him to be eternally asking for news and especially news from England. It was my custom to pass every Saturday night and Sunday at another Quaker's about 12 miles from the city, and about a mile from Robert's house; and, upon a certain occasion, not having any English

news for him, a neighbour of mine, who was going out with me one Saturday evening, and who was also a friend of Robert, suggested the idea of making some for him. This he did in a paragraph, stating that the PRINCESS OF WALES had been brought to bed of three sons; that the assistants, in their hurry and anxiety, had so handed them about from one to the other, that, at last, neither of them could tell which was born first, and, of course, there might arise a disputed title to the Crown, whence might come strife and fightings and bloodshed without end.—The paragraph was printed in one copy of the news-paper, and then it was taken out, and the rest of the edition printed off with something else in the place of that paragraph. When ROBERT had read the paper, and was gone home, we put it in the fire, and left him to propagate its contents for miles and miles round the country, with an effect that will, I dare say, be, for years, remembered amongst the hospitable and good-humoured people of that part of Pennsylvania.—What difficulty would there be, then, in getting into an American news-paper a paragraph about JEFFERY? Nay, go ask the Editor of *L'Eclair* what difficulty there would be, if the temptation were sufficiently great, to have a whole news-paper printed for the purpose, and dated at whatever time the person who paid for it might wish for.—In short, it is clear, that nothing of this sort can be called proof; and, that a million of such loose circumstances are not worth the single fact of JEFFERY'S being able to write and keep accounts.—When the story was told to SIR ALEXANDER COCHRANE, it must have been evident enough, that something would, first or last, be wanted to confirm the truth of it. Measures, supposing the story to be invented, would, of course, be taken to secure that confirmation, if possible; and, how easily that might be done we have now seen, as far as concerns the paragraph. With regard to the personification, that would be easy enough too, through the means of any person having the needful, at any of the West India ports, where American ships were to be met with.—But, it was not easy to find any body to write in JEFFERY'S hand to his mother. It was quite easy to take him, or "pick" him, off the rock; equally easy to carry him to Marblehead; still easier to land him; easy enough to pass him off upon the people as an object of compassion; very easy to get a col-



lection of clothes and money for him, and, if amongst the Quakers of Lower Dublin and Bucks counties in Pennsylvania, as easy to place him at free quarter all the year round for the rest of his life, with only the trouble of moving now-and-then from one house to another. It was easy to get a report spread abroad about the having "PICKED" him off a desert Island; it was easy to get this report moulded into a paragraph and published in a newspaper; it was easy enough to find him out at Marblehead, when a noise began to be made about him in England; it was easy to prevail upon him not only to forget all resentment against LAKE, but to come forward and make a declaration, that he was the man who was landed at Sombrero; it was easy to get him to go to WENHAM from Marblehead, to *make this Declaration*, then to go to BOSTON, back through Marblehead, to swear to the truth of it, before Mr. STEPHENSON, who is a Notary Public, and who, perhaps, knew not the contents of the paper sworn to. All this was easy, all this it was easy to do with money. But it was not easy to *make him write to his mother*: money would not purchase his *hand-writing*.—The fact of his being able to write well, for a young man in his rank of life, is now, to my mind, established beyond a doubt. The letter, of which I have inserted a copy from the Morning Chronicle, and from the manuscript in my own possession, is of undoubted authenticity. It was shewn to me by a gentleman, who knows the writer well, and whom I know well. The writer attests the authenticity of Mrs. COADE's letter, and he himself states the declaration of the school-master.—How, then, are we to believe, that this young man would have remained nearly three years at Marblehead, without writing to his mother? From Marblehead, or close by it, vessels are continually sailing for England. Not less than one or two *every week*, perhaps, all the year round. JEFFERY, who had been a seaman, would not be ignorant of such matters. And, yet, he remains at that place nearly three years, and never writes a word to his mother.—Nothing but the identity of the man proved, and then the man's oath to the fact, would make me believe this.—Observe, it was *early in February 1808* that LAKE went back to Sombrero to look for JEFFERY, and it was in about three weeks after that time (as Mr. EVANS's friend's friend's letter says) that a boy,

"PICKED" off a desert Island, was landed at Marblehead. This was just about the interval required for a vessel's sailing from the West Indies to New-England. Viewed in this way, there is consistency enough in all the parts; but, viewed in the other way; that is to say, proceeding upon the supposition, that JEFFERY is *alive*, all is inconsistent, improbable, unnatural, and rejected by reason.—I cannot dismiss this subject, even for the present, without repeating my earnest hope, that the government will not fail to avail themselves, to its full extent, of this opportunity, afforded them by SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, of convincing the whole nation, and the *seamen of our ships of war in particular*, that such an act as that of LAKE has their decided reprobation. An Address has been presented to the king. The king has issued his orders to make search for the unfortunate man, who was the subject of that address. And, there can be no doubt, that the matter will never be suffered to rest, till the fate of JEFFERY be proved beyond dispute.—I know of no act of cruelty equal to this, committed upon JEFFERY; I have never read and never heard of any act to equal this act committed upon an English sailor for taking *two quarts of spruce beer* (which did not belong *exclusively* to him) at a time when there was a *scarcity of water* in the ship; and, I do hope, and trust, and, indeed, I have *no doubt*, that the government will leave nothing undone, upon the subject, that *justice demands*, and that it is in *their power to do*.—The character of the nation is at stake, in this case. When we read, in the MORNING POST and the COURIER, the attacks upon Napoleon and the French Generals for their cruelties, can we suppose, that the French newspapers will pass in silence over this act of LAKE, this treatment of an English sailor? And, what reason should we have for surprise, if the play-makers in France and Holland and Denmark and Sweden were to make this act a subject amongst their exhibitions. It is due, therefore, to our national character, that nothing, as touching this matter, be left undone, in order to prove to the world, that no part of the act attaches itself to either the nation or the government.—Let me, in conclusion, observe, that this act was not committed by any of those, who are represented as *Jacobins*. I do not wish, by any means to insinuate, that the disposition, by which the act was dictated, is an ap-



pendage of *nobility*; but, as often as the act is mentioned by me, so often will I repeat, that it was not committed by a Jacobin.

PORTUGAL.—The Victory of Busaco has rendered what we shall have to say under this head of remark an object of much less interest than it used to be, when we could not help entertaining some latent fears as to the result of the campaign in Portugal. This victory, of which a full account was given in my last, appears to have removed every particle of apprehension, upon this score, from the minds of my diurnal contemporaries, upon whose sleeve, as to every thing relating to Portugal, I pin my faith, and on whom, if I should be in error, I have, I presume, a right to throw the whole of the responsibility.—The TIMES news-paper, of the 18th instant, contains some admirable remarks upon the consequences, which must inevitably result from the Victory of Busaco, part of which remarks I cannot refrain from inserting here —“ But now observe what towering hopes open to us, which the country may indulge, we may say, with the most perfect confidence: Massena is on a remote frontier, and with an inferior army, and that army with nothing but the ground it covers, as Lord Wellington stated in his dispatches; while his Lordship had an open and friendly country to retire through. The original SEVENTY THOUSAND French, exclusive of all other deductions, sunk by the single battle of Busaco to SIXTY THOUSAND; and supposing any fresh supplies to have arrived from France, yet these, and more, must be expended upon the garrisons of the captured towns, and in supplying the places of those who fell in the capture of them. Against these *sixty thousand*, if there are in truth so many, the British General is able to bring into the field *thirty-six thousand* English, and *forty five thousand* Portuguese troops of the line, the latter tried and found worthy of contending in the ranks with the former; in all, *eighty-one thousand* men.—There are besides these, the Portuguese militia *fifty-four thousand* in number, and the *ordenanza*; whom Lord Wellington describes as having harassed the flanks and rear of Massena's army, (even) in his advance from Celerico to Viseu: how will they infest him in his retreat? His communication with Almeida, too, (as his

Lordship's dispatches likewise inform us) is completely cut off. To all these circumstances must be added the natural despondency created in the minds of his men by the signal overthrow at Busaco, wherein they lost more than a seventh part, more than half a quarter, of their whole body. Lord Wellington retreated before an army that had not defeated him, and that could not defeat him; Massena will have to escape from one by which he has been already beaten.”—

This picture is very ably drawn; and, as the writer further observes, “it is not easy to see how it is possible for Massena to escape; and that we may look, with confidence, and a kind of anticipating exultation, to the opening of the future dispatches from Portugal.” It is not frequently that I agree with the COURIER, but to its statement of numbers, upon this occasion, there is not much to object.—

To those who entertain apprehensions, from a belief that the enemy's force is so superior, it will be gratifying to hear, that with the reinforcements on their march from Lisbon to join our army, Lord Wellington will have between thirty and forty thousand British troops, with a force not much inferior of Portuguese. The enemy's army consists of three divisions, Regnier's, Ney's, and Junot's; these divisions are about 25,000 men each, or 75,000 men in all; from that amount however must be deducted the loss sustained by the enemy in the late battle, about 10,000 men.”—Thus, this print, too, gives to Viscount Talavera the decided superiority in point of numbers; and, in other respects, there is, we know well, no comparison at all. We all know, how much superior an English army, including officers of course, is to a French army of the same numbers. That point has long been settled. And, we are now told officially, by our Commander himself, that the Portuguese regulars are worthy of contending in the same ranks with our men; that is to say, that they are as good soldiers.—Beside these, there are all the Portuguese militia, amounting to above 60 thousand; and, what sort of troops these are, how nearly equal to the regulars, we may easily guess from the circumstance of Lord Talavera's having ordered a body of them, under a Colonel, to perform the duty of stopping the French army in their attempt to get round into the road between Coimbra and Oporto. This clearly shews what a description of troops



these are ; and, remember, there are *sixty thousand* of them.—The *MORNING POST* of these last four days, tells us, that, as to Oporto, if Massena should attempt to escape by going thither, preparations are made in all the northern provinces for the destroying of mills and provisions, the inhabitants having resolved to withdraw to the mountains ; that there are at least 20 thousand men to the north of the Douro, under General Silveira, exclusive of the armed peasantry ; that there is a large Spanish army collecting very rapidly in Galicia ; that the armed peasantry with two brigades of Portuguese Troops, under Cols. Miller and Trant, are “operating upon Massena’s communications ;” that Lord Talavera, with an increasing army, is in Massena’s front ; that, the country does not afford supplies for its own inhabitants ; that Lord Talavera is obliged to get part of his from his ships ; that, of course, Massena can get none ; that his men were actually starving before he was defeated ; that, in the dead Frenchmen’s haversacks a little INDIAN CORN (whether boiled or not is not said) was found, but neither bread nor biscuit ; that, since his defeat, his men have deserted more than ever ; and, that, in short, “his hour is come.”—It is an old saying, that what every body says must be true ; and, every account, from all quarters, seems to say, that Massena never can get off with whole bones. Here we see him fairly caught. Twenty thousand men besides numerous bodies of irregulars occupy the North, in the rear of him ; he is cut off from Almeida to the East ; Lord Talavera, with a victorious and increasing army, is in his front ; Cols. Miller and Trant are “operating upon his communications ;” so that, he seems to have nothing but the West open to him, and there, for his comfort, he has the sea, which seems kindly to tender him and his army an effectual cure for all their diseases, wants, and misfortunes.

WM. COBBETT.

State Prison, Newgate, Friday,  
October 19, 1810.

POST SCRIPT.—Just as I was sending off the above, the following article reached me through the *COURIER* news-paper of this evening.—“We are enabled officially to contradict the report of a “second battle. None had been fought down to the fifth. Dispatches of that date have just been received from Lord Wellington, by a messenger who left

“Lisbon on the 7th.—The Dispatches “are dated from Alcobaca, to the S. W. of “Leyria, on the road leading by the sea “coast to Torres Vedras.—Having ACCOMPLISHED HIS OBJECT of giving “time to the inhabitants of Coimbra to re- “move themselves and their effects, his Lord- “ship retreated from the Banks of the “Mondego on the evening of the first, as “we understand.—Meanwhile Massena “continued to advance from Avellans, and “crossed the Mondego.—There had been “some sharp skirmishing with his ad- “vanced guard. Our army conducted “its march gradually and in the greatest “order. The first fortified position is near “Torres Vedras.—Massena’s Head-quar- “ters were at Leyria.”—ALCOBACA is, by the road, about 70 English miles, I should think, from COIMBRA, which, of course, is the distance that our army has moved since the 30th of September, on which day the Viscount’s dispatches were dated at Coimbra. LEYRIA is about 15 English miles from ALCOBACA ; so that, it appears, that Massena and his scare-crows push on, as if resolved to get a belly-full of our provisions before they take their farewell of this world.—I should have been for letting them die empty, and, therefore, I would not have stopped to bury the 2,000 dead Frenchmen and to examine the ears of Indian Corn in their haversacks.—N. B. We are not told, whether Colonels Miller and Trant were still “operating upon Massena’s communications.”

#### OFFICIAL PAPERS.

SICILY.—Proclamation.—Ferdinand IV. by the Grace of God, King of the two Sicilies, Jerusalem, &c. Infant of Spain, Duke of Parma, Placenza, Castis, &c. Grand Hereditary Prince of Tuscany, to our beloved and faithful people of Sicily.—10th July, 1810. (Concluded from p. 672.)

.....In vain does he try, with unequalled impudencies, to pervert and misrepresent facts for the purpose of animating his soldiers and sailors ; they all know the losses he has sustained ; they all know, that to flight alone they are indebted for their lives, and they all see that the batteries on the Calabrian coast are their only asylum and protection.—Sicilians ! experience clearly shews you what an unlimited confidence you should repose on the heroic valour of our royal navy, and that of our august ally, the



King of Great Britain. To this moment they have baffled the enemy's attempts, and, with unimpaired zeal and courage, they will continue to avert from our shores the dreadful evils with which you are threatened. But what brilliant results have you not a right to expect of cherishing in your own breasts the enthusiastic love and loyalty with which you are nobly animated, and join your assistance, exertions, and means to the forces which we and our gallant allies oppose to the enemy. Then will victory be certain, and your tranquillity insured. The preservation of our holy religion, and of all the objects of your regards, and the sentiments of love and attachment which you have always displayed towards our person, call for all your exertions.—Hold, then, yourselves in readiness to join, at the voice of your Sovereign and Father, our troops and those of our faithful ally, the King of Great Britain, for the purpose of resisting the threatened invasion, and thereby securing his throne and its independence. and let your alacrity in obeying this call, afford the enemy an additional proof, that, making common cause with our allies, the English, you follow our example, and comply with our will; and that, therefore, he will find in all the inhabitants of this island a general and unanimous determination to shed the last drop of their blood, and to die with arms in their hands, rather than submit to his abhorred yoke. Sicilians! remember your former glory, and you shall be invincible.

FERDINAND THOMASO DI SOMMA.

RUSSIA.—*Note, relating to Confiscated Shipping.—Petersburgh, 20th July, 1810.*

Having observed, from the Note you presented me with, the Representations made by the Commissioners (of the Neutral Navigation Act) who were appointed to examine the case of the ships that have, during this season, reported their arrival from Teneriffe.—1st, That these cargoes from all appearances and confronting circumstances, are evidently doubtful and suspicious—2d, That the false papers and documents of the said vessels, given in for examination to the Commissioners, have been proved to them, and discovered, without the least doubt, to have been forged, this act alone admits of sufficient reason for confiscating the said cargoes without any further proof. I therefore agree with your opinion, that examining

the Masters and Owners of these ships, as heretofore has been usual by the Commissioners, in ordinary cases, will occasion a detention to them, without any utility arising to them from such an examination, but occasion a prolongation of the business. And as a quick decision will be beneficial to the commercial interest, during the present Navigation, and to the general credit, I empower you, through the medium of the Commissioners of the Neutral Navigation Act, immediately to confiscate the cargoes of said ships.—The Captains, Owners, and part Owners of said confiscated cargoes, having permission, within the usual time, to appeal according to the form of law prescribed, you shall receive particular instructions in what way the sale of the confiscated cargoes are to be made. *Ad interim*, you are to take proper care of the same. And although from the above-mentioned circumstances of forged documents being discovered, and false declarations of their coming from Teneriffe, the ships ought equally to be confiscated; but finding that most of the vessels are the property of the subjects of Neutral Powers, the resolution with respect to them shall be shortly formed. I order you immediately to take off the arrest of such vessels as are absolutely Neutrals, permitting them to load with our produce, and sailing, taking the usual precaution, that it is agreeable to the prescribed rules of permitting the export of our produce. ALEXANDER.

SPAIN.—*Order relating to the Caraccas.—31st July, 1810.*

The Council of Regency no sooner received the unexpected and disagreeable intelligence of the events that have occurred in the Caraccas, the natives whereof, instigated no doubt by some intriguers and factious persons, have committed the indignity of declaring themselves independent of the mother country, and created a Junta of government, which exercises the pretended independent authority, than his Majesty determined upon taking the most active and efficacious measures to attack an evil so scandalous both in its origin and progress. But in order to proceed with that mature deliberation and circumspection, which a matter of such importance demands, his Majesty thought it proper to advise thereon with the Supreme Council of Spain and the Indies. This has accordingly been done, and such mea-



asures have consequently been adopted as his Majesty entertains no doubt will accomplish the object in view; more particularly as, according to subsequent accounts, neither the capital and Province of Maracaibo, that of Coro, nor even the interior of Caraccas itself, have taken part in so criminal a proceeding; but on the contrary, that they have not only recognized the Council of Regency, but also, animated with the best spirit in favour of the people of the mother country, have taken the most efficacious measures to oppose the absurd idea of the Caraccas declaring themselves independent, without the means of maintaining their independence. His Majesty has, nevertheless, deemed it indispensable to declare, as he hereby declares, the province of the Caraccas to be in a state of rigorous blockade; ordering that no vessels shall enter the ports thereof, under pain of being detained by the cruizers and vessels of his Majesty, and forbidding all Commandants and Chiefs, civil or military, of any of the provinces or dominions of his Majesty, to authorise vessels to proceed to La Guaiara, or to grant permits or licences to any vessel bound thereto, or to any port or creek of the said province; and further, commanding that all vessels sailing therefrom, whithersoever bound, shall be seized, detained, and confiscated; and, in order to carry this measure into effect, his Majesty is forwarding a sufficient naval force to prevent any vessel from entering, or departing from the ports of the said province.—His Majesty also directs, that all the Commandants, and Chiefs of the provinces, contiguous to the said province, do obstruct the introduction therein of any description of provisions, arms, or stores, and likewise the exportation of the productions of its soil or industry; and that they exert themselves to cut off all communication with the inhabitants of the said province.—This Royal resolution does not extend to such provinces of that Captain-generalship as, declining to follow the pernicious example of that of the Caraccas, have manifested their constant fidelity, by renouncing the project of rebellion, which has solely originated in the unbounded ambition of some of the inhabitants, and the blind credulity of the rest, in suffering themselves to be hurried away by the inflamed passions of their fellow countrymen. His Majesty has taken the proper means for the complete extirpation of these evils, and chastising the authors thereof with all

the rigour which the rights of sovereignty authorise him to exercise, if they do not previously make a voluntary submission; in which case his Majesty grants them a general pardon.—His Majesty orders that these dispositions be circulated in his dominions for the purpose of being carried into effect, and also in foreign parts, that they may conform themselves to the measures adopted for the blockade of the above mentioned coasts; and by order of his Majesty I transmit the same to your honour for your information, &c.

FRANCE.—*Copy of a Letter from the Minister of Foreign Relations to Mr. Armstrong.*—Paris, August 5, 1810.

Sir; I have laid before his Majesty the Emperor and King, the Act of Congress of the 1st of May, extracted from the paper of the United States, which you had transmitted to me. His Majesty could have wished that this Act, and all other Acts of the United States that may concern France, had been always officially notified to him.—The Emperor applauded the general embargo laid by the United States on all their vessels, because that measure, if it has been prejudicial to France, contained at least, nothing offensive to her honour. It has caused her to lose her colonies of Guadaloupe, Martinique and Cayenne. The Emperor did not complain of it. He made this sacrifice to the principle which determined the Americans to impose the embargo, and which inspired them with the noble resolution of interdicting themselves the use of the sea, rather than submit to the laws of those who wish to become its tyrants.—The Act of the 1st of March removed the embargo, and substituted for it a measure which must have been particularly injurious to the interests of France.—That Act, with which the Emperor was not acquainted for a considerable time after, interdicted to American vessels the commerce of France, whilst it authorised a trade with Spain, Naples and Holland, that is to say, with countries under French influence, and denounced confiscation against all French vessels that should enter the ports of America. Reprisal was a matter of right, and commanded by the dignity of France, a circumstance upon which it was impossible to make any compromise. The sequestration of all the American vessels in France was the necessary result of the measure taken by Congress.—At present the Congress tread



back its steps. It revokes the Act of the 1st of March. The ports of America are open to French commerce, and France is no longer interdicted to the Americans. In short, the Congress engages to oppose such of the Belligerent Powers as shall refuse to recognise the rights of neutrals. In this new state of things, I am authorised to declare to you, Sir, that the Decrees of Berlin and Milan are revoked, and that, from the 1st of November, they will cease to be in force, it being understood that in consequence of this declaration the English shall revoke their Orders in Council, and renounce the new principles of blockade which they have attempted to establish; or that the United States, conformably to the Act which you have just communicated, shall cause their rights to be respected by the English.—It is with the most particular satisfaction that I inform you of this resolution of the Emperor. His Majesty loves the Americans. Their prosperity, and their commerce, enter into the views of his policy. The independence of America is one of the principal titles of the glory of France. Since that epoch the Emperor has felt a pleasure in aggrandizing the United States; and in all circumstances, whatever can contribute to the independence, the prosperity, and the liberty of the Americans, will be regarded by the Emperor as conformable to the interests of his Empire.

FRANCE.—*Decree, relating to Goods imported.*  
—Dated Trianon, 5th Aug. 1810.—N. B. The *Moniteur* declares (See Register page 577) this Decree not to have been published in France.—It appears to have been forged somewhere.

Art. 1. The duties upon the importation of the undermentioned goods and merchandize are settled as follow:—By metrical quintal: the Cottons of Brazil, Cayenne, Surinam, Demerary and Georgia, long staple, 800 francs; Levant cottons, imported by sea, 600 fr.; the same by land, through the offices at Cologne, Coblenz, Mayence, and Strasburgh, 300 fr.; cottons from all other places, those from Naples excepted, 600 fr.; those from Naples, the old duties. Raw sugar, 300 fr.; clayed or loaf sugar, 400 fr.; Hyson teas, 900 fr.; green teas, 600 fr.; all other tea, 150 fr.; Indigo, 900 fr.; cocoa, 100 fr.; cochineal, 2,000 fr.; white pepper, 600 fr.; black do. 400 fr.; common cinnamon, 1,400 fr.; fine do. 2,000 fr.; cloves,

600 fr.; nutmegs, 2,000 fr.; mahogany, 50 fr.; Pernambucco wood, 120 fr.; Campeachy do. 80 fr.; dye-woods ground, 100 fr.—Art. 2. When the Custom-house Officers suspect that the declarations concerning the species or qualities are false, they shall send specimens to the Director-General of our Customs, who is to cause them to be examined by Commissaries who have a knowledge of these branches, attached to the Ministry of the Interior; and who, in every such examination, shall be assisted by two manufacturers or merchants, chosen by the Minister of the Interior.—If it shall appear that the declarations are false, all the merchandize shall be seized and confiscated.

FRANCE.—*Decree relative to News-papers.*  
—Dated at Trianon, 3rd Aug. 1810.

1. There shall be only one journal in each of the departments with the exception of that of the Seine.—2. This journal shall be under the authority of the Prefect, and cannot be published but with his approbation.—3. Nevertheless, the Prefects may provisionally authorize in our great cities, the publication of papers containing advertisements in the nature of posting bills, or hand-bills, relative to sales of articles of merchandize and immoveable property; and journals, treating exclusively of literature, the sciences, arts, and agriculture. The said publications must contain no articles foreign to their object.—4. Our Minister of the Interior shall, on the 1st of September next, make a report to us upon the said advertising journals; the publication of which may be definitively determined.

DENMARK.—*Royal Decree, 9 Aug. 1810.*

We, Frederic the 6th, hereby declare that in consideration of the peculiar circumstances of the times we find it necessary to order and decree as follows:—Art. 1. The line extending from the city of Neustadt through the several places in a direct line as far as Husum, in the plain of Norderdith, shall be considered as a line of customs over which no produce that is not of Europe shall, either by sea or land, be exported from our Duchy of Holstein.—Art. 2. Refined sugar and molasses are not to pass the above line.—Art. 3. An exception is admitted as to small quantities of Non-European or refined sugar and molasses, which evidently are designed



for domestic use in places beyond the line.

—Art. 4. Such Non-European produce which is indispensable for manufactures, may be passed over the line in the necessary quantities, under an engagement that the manufactures in which they are used shall be sent to the countries within the line.—Art. 5. A Committee is appointed for the distribution of licences for the above mentioned quantities of Non-European produce, which Committee is to secure the fulfilment of such engagement, and to attend to the respective destinations.

—Art. 6. For these objects all Non-European produce shall be previously announced to the Commission, with the manufacture in which it is to be employed, for its future transport over the line.—

Art. 7. All Non-European produce found beyond the prescribed line, in greater quantities than the Commission deems necessary for retail trade in six months, and for domestic use in a year, shall, after six weeks from the date of this Decree, be subject to confiscation.—Art. 8. The City of Altona alone shall be exempt from these regulations, but all Non-European produce in this city, and refined sugar and molasses, shall be placed under the controul of a Committee of Export (whose duties are explained.)—Art. 9. Every carriage is to give the security of 25 per cent. on the worth of the carriage and the loading, and for misconduct and false papers the whole is to be confiscated.—Art.

10. All Non-European produce which, in transport, shall be found within the boundary of the above mentioned places, shall be subject to confiscation; and further, both the owner and the carrier shall be fined in the value of the goods. The punishment shall be increased for each repetition of the offence; and if the party be guilty a fourth time, the offender is to suffer according to the judgment delivered in a General Chamber of Customs.—This Decree is to remain in force until superseded by some other, and the Military Commanders, as well as Officers of the Customs, are to watch over its punctual execution.

CASSEL.—1st Sept. 1810. A Decree, published here, contains, among other things, the following:—

1. The public debt of the ancient Hanoverian provinces will be administered se-

parately from the other departments of the kingdom, till it is otherwise ordered.

—2. The interest will be paid at the rate of two per cent. for the current year.—3.

A Commission will be formed, charged with the liquidation of the Hanoverian debt, which will enter on its functions the 15th of September, of the present year.—

4. The works of the Commission will form the basis of the grant-books, which henceforth will be the only and fundamental title for all the creditors of the State.—5.

The Commission is to terminate its labours before the 15th of next March.

FRANCE.—Instructions, relative to Commerce, in the North. 15th. Sept. 1810.

The following is a copy of the instructions transmitted from Paris to General Molitor, and by him to the Directors of the Customs in the Rivers Elbe, Weser, and Jade. The 6th article is important, inasmuch as it allows vessels proceeding to France, under licences from that Government, to touch at an English port, and even land part of its cargo there, without danger of being prosecuted for the same:—

1. Every vessel must be provided with a licence, bearing the number and series of the port, and the number of the licences, delivered in each series.—1st series, Hamburgh; 2d series, Bremen; 3d series, Lubeck.—To these licences will be affixed the signature of the Emperor; those of the Ministers of the Interior; and of Marine; and also, that of the Director-General of the Customs, who will transmit them to the Directors of the Customs at the ports above-mentioned.—2. The Director of the Customs at each of these Ports, must instantly send advice of the arrival of these licences to his Majesty's Charges d'Affaires and Consuls in the Hanseatic Cities. He will notify to the Consuls the applications addressed to him for licences. The Consuls are to fill up, in their own hand-writing, the number of the licence, the name of the vessel, the amount of tonnage, and the number of the crew; the name of the Captain, the firm of the Commercial-house under bond for the vessel, and the port of destination in France.—They will also inscribe on the licences a motto, with the cypher which they have from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; this motto to be different for each licence. (To be continued.)